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# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



*A Publication Concerned With  
Natural History and Conservation*

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club



# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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## The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

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**Objectives of the Club:** To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

**Club Publications:** THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on Club activities.

**Field Trips, Lectures** and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

**Membership Fees:** Individual (yearly) \$40

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Views expressed in **Trail & Landscape** are not necessarily those of the OFNC



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**October - December**

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# Welcome New Members

## Ottawa Area

Vandna Bhatia & Family  
Lindsay Boudreau  
Eden Bromfield  
Kenneth Buchan  
Joel Buffam  
Brian Carson  
Renée De Vry & Family  
David M. Dean & Family  
Karen Ellis

Douglas Green & Family  
Moore-Leffler Family & Family  
Alexander MacDonald & Family  
Sara Mitchell  
Constance Page & Family  
Bill Parker  
Lucy Patterson  
Michael Waters  
Tian Wu

## Gatineau Area

Daniel Pouliot

## Ontario

Claire Elliott

## Quebec

Université du Québec-Montréal

Henry Steger  
Chair, Membership Committee  
August 2013



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## Letter to the editor

Congratulations to Michael Lait for a fascinating article on the relationship between [the] OFNC and the National Capital Commission (NCC) regarding Gatineau Park, 1965-1970 (*T&L* July-Sept 2013). If Michael does carry on to assess whether the conservation public was “successful in keeping the NCC’s planning and management aligned with conservation objectives” (p.116), he will discover that Sheila Thomson’s campaign eventually had significant impacts on NCC. By stopping his research for this article at 1970, he didn’t see the major changes that occurred in 1975.

I came to Ottawa in 1972 as a summer student with my degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from Guelph. I worked at the National Research Council that summer under the supervision of Dr. Sandy Hart, and, given his interests and zeal, I learned about Gatineau Park and the NPPAC [National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada] from him. From there I continued on to do an MSc at Ottawa University.

In January 1975, NCC created a new section under Alan Ede. (He indeed did have “leanings to the wilderness concept,” as Michael suggests on page 115.) I was hired as the first NCC biologist, and several naturalists were also hired to work as interpreters, all of us under the direct supervision of Aileen Merriam, wife of Dr. Grey Merriam of Carleton University, who co-authored the document on Gatineau Park in 1970. Shortly after that I worked on the team that produced the first Gatineau Park master plan. I stayed with NCC until 1996.

Although the benefits of my work and the results of that first Gatineau Park master plan can be reviewed and assessed, I have to think that it was thanks to Sheila Thomson, the OFNC, and subsequently the NPPAC, that this all happened. Thank you Michael for revealing these connections, as I was previously not aware of all of the details.

Stew Hamill  
Merrickville, ON  
July 18, 2013



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# Changes to the Constitution and By-Laws

*Ann MacKenzie*

It is time to up-date ourselves, get with the program and keep up with the times. If you don't like all these clichés then just consider it an exercise mandated by changing legislation.

The last time the constitution and by-laws of the Club were up-dated was February 2000. As if that was not reason enough, the Ontario government is introducing new legislation, the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA). While the act was passed in 2010 it has not yet come into force. There have been several delays, but now it is looking like January 2014 is the target time. After that we have three years to modify our constitution and by-laws to conform to this new legislation.

Those of you who attended the Annual Business Meeting in January, 2013 have heard of this pending project. We are in the early stages of determining the impact on our Club. However, it is certain that changes will be needed to conform to the ONCA. While we are reviewing our constitution and by-laws for the new legislation we might as well up-date it to reflect the reality of today. For example, we no longer have a Corresponding Secretary and the Fletcher Wildlife Garden is not just an *ad hoc* committee.

Council has decided to form an *ad hoc* committee to undertake a review of the constitution and by-laws. Any member who is interested in participating in this *ad hoc* Constitution Review Committee should send an email to Ann MacKenzie ([annmackenzie@rogers.com](mailto:annmackenzie@rogers.com)). It is expected that the bulk of the work will be done electronically with few, if any, face-to-face meetings.



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# The 2013 Soirée and the Awards for 2012

*K. McLachlan Hamilton*

Over the years, I have attended many soirées. Each one is different. You never know who will be there or what will happen, like the year the party continued in spite of having no electricity. This year had no technical issues, but there were several people whom I had not seen for awhile in attendance. I also had the extreme pleasure of seeing one of my former professors from Carleton University. Dr. Don Smith came to the event to celebrate a long-time friend's acceptance of an honorary member award. This is truly a small world. The snacks and beverages were great, as usual, and well worth sampling.



I try to arrive early enough to be able to spend time with the Macoun members who take the time to prepare projects. This is one of the highlights, as I always learn something from them. That evening there were four presentations. Carmen brought a series of skulls she collected over the years. She explained in great detail how and







where she found them. Carlos gave us his view on the Lac Deschênes area. His project had many images of the various species found in the area, and he described a first-hand account of a Merlin ripping apart a Starling. Patrick looked at woodpeckers and their ability to find Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) larvae, a topic in the forefront of most peoples' minds these days. The final project, by Jordan and Nathan, looked at fish survival strategies in winter with respect to oxygen levels and temperature. Apparently, all members present also participated in an all day field trip, so it was understandable that they were a little tired.



The format of the evening was a mix of award presentations, a mystery item quiz, speeches from the Macoun president, prizes for Macoun projects, and the results of the art/photography contest. In no particular order, here is a synopsis of the events.

An honorary membership is given to someone who has made extensive contributions to Canadian natural history or to the successful operation of the OFNC. In 2012 the Club thought two individuals, Peter Hall and J. Bruce Falls, were worthy of this prestigious award.

Peter Hall's contributions fulfilled both criteria for honorary membership. He has been involved with the OFNC for more than 30 years, during which he has served on council and on various committees, was associate editor for *T&L*, and has led many



walks and excursions. He was also instrumental in the conception/implementation of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, where he continues to volunteer.

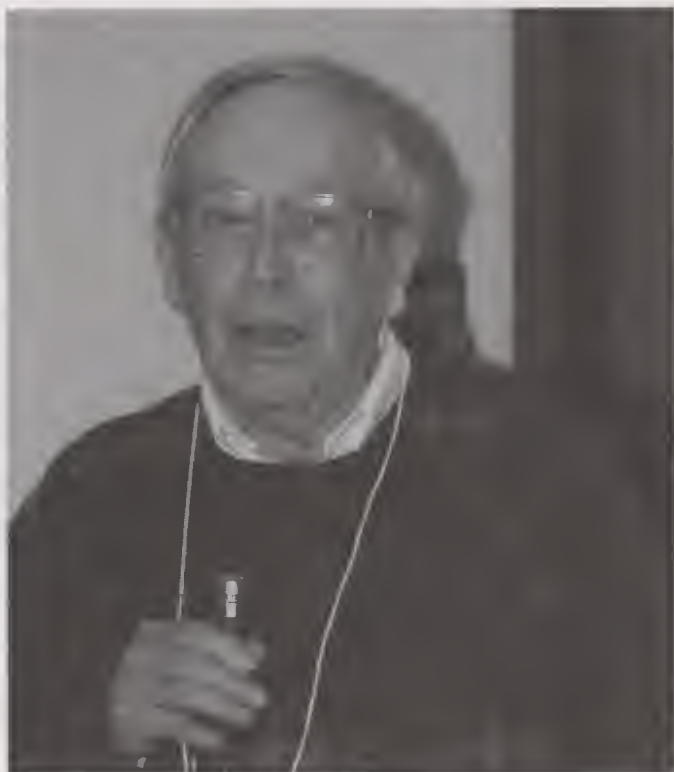


Some may say Peter's primary interest is butterflies. He co-authored *The Butterflies of Canada* and *Butterflies of the Ottawa District*, and is responsible for the *Checklist of Butterflies of the Ottawa District* and *Sentinels on the Wing: The Status and Conservation of Butterflies in Canada*. He is currently working on a field guide to the butterflies of Ontario. Others may say Peter's interest is conservation since he had used his communication skills to head the Canadian Environmental Network, a group of non-governmental organizations interested in conservation, and was the director of Biodiversity Information Services, among others. Both are correct!

According to my inside source, J. Bruce Falls began his natural history career at a very early age. I believe birding is where he began, and I bet you he was one of those "gang members" I heard about who spent many summer days biking to the outskirts of Toronto to explore the natural world. He was keenly interested in bird songs in their relation to behaviour which included studies in territoriality. I think his favorite birds must be sparrows and meadowlarks. However, he did not stop at birds. He studied small mammals in Algonquin Park, martins near Bracebridge and Ontario Timber Wolves. As a professor at the University of Toronto he inspired many students, so much so that the J. Bruce Falls Scholarship was established to



promote studies in ecology and evolutionary biology. He was actively involved in the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (now Ontario Nature), and was one of the people who was instrumental in the establishment of the Nature Conservancy of Canada, a foundation that successfully secures the



protection of lands throughout Canada. He has been a *CFN* subscriber for 60 years, perhaps partly due to the late Bill Cody's influence—Bill was a long-time member of the OFNC and a fellow classmate of Bruce.

The Member of the Year is someone who has made a considerable contribution to the club recently. For this award, Jay Fitzsimmons was an obvious choice. As described in his citation, "Jay is one part technical manager, one part firefighter and several parts cheerleader." When discussions began concerning *The Canadian Field Naturalist (CFN)* becoming an electronic journal, Jay jumped in with both feet. He was involved with the *ad hoc* committee investigating various online options, presented these options to Council, then set up and debugged the system to suit *CFN* needs and has kept the system running even during server problems. As the *CFN* business manager, he tracked incoming money for new subscriptions as well as renewals and author charges. If this was not enough he, and *CFN* Editor-in-Chief Carolyn Callaghan, represented the OFNC at the 2012 Evolutionary Conference held in Ottawa where they promoted the journal by giving attendees a temporary online link and invited authors to publish in the *CFN*. Later that year he represented the OFNC and *CFN* at the Ontario Entomological Society. This effort seems to have





paid off as the *CFN* has already received more submissions this year than they had in 2012. He also began “tweeting” and has started a blog which is linked to the *CFN* website hoping to engage potential subscribers. Did I mention that he did this while finishing his PhD and a father of two small children? Sadly, Jay has recently moved out of Ottawa. He hopes to continue working with the *CFN* as the bulk of the work can be done remotely. We wish him well in his future ventures.

The conservation awards, both member and non-member, are to recognise people who have made significant contributions to natural history conservation in the Ottawa Region. This year the OFNC recognised club member David Seaburn and non-members Biodiversity Conservancy International and the National Capital Commission.

David’s has a fondness for amphibians and reptiles, especially turtles. He has campaigned to stop the hunting of Ontario’s Snapping Turtles, raised awareness to the plight of the Blanding’s Turtles living in the Terry Fox/South March development, and monitored Spotted Turtle populations in eastern Ontario. His work has resulted in the Nature Conservancy of Canada acquiring land in eastern Ontario to protect the Spotted Turtle population. He promotes turtle conservation through assessments, presentations, training, and publications—both scientific and





popular articles. He is currently the regional coordinator for the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian atlas. I am glad to see someone speak for the turtles, as they need a lot of help. Seven of the eight species in Ontario are listed as Species at Risk.

The National Capital Greenbelt Sand Dune Conservation Project was a collaborative effort between the Biodiversity Conservancy International (BCI) and the National Capital Commission (NCC). The area for consideration was the Pinhey dune, a tract of land near the Nepean Sportsplex, that had almost disappeared due to the establishment of invasive plants, earlier tree planting, urban sprawl, and fire prevention. This dune is part of the shore of the Champlain Sea so it should have a natural barren appearance because of its dry, open, sandy deposits. It is the habitat for some pretty uncommon plants and animals; including the Ghost Tiger Beetle, Stemless Lady's-Slipper, and ant lions. This area was recognized as special by BCI members who obtained permission from the NCC, the land owners, and funding from the Trillium Foundation to restore a section of the dune. With a lot of help from community volunteers and the NCC, a portion of the dune had been restored by late 2012. At the moment, the NCC continues to be the land owner, and BCI is considered the permanent steward of the sand dune system. Receiving the award was PT Dang, Henri Goulet, Joanne Hakkaku, and Andrew Mott of BCI.

The aim of the Anne Hanes Natural History Award is to identify amateur naturalists who have made outstanding contributions to our understanding of natural history in the National Capital Region. Diane Lepage received the award in 2012 for her work







on the moths of Larose Forest. Moths of Larose Forest (*T&L* 47(1):25-40) reflects Diane's passion for moths, as well as her love for photography and the natural world. Her treatise is a result of five years spent studying these often overlooked insects. Since 2007 she discovered over 351 species in Larose Forest, documenting each species using pictures rather than killing them. Her work would put Larose Forest as one of the most intensely studied areas, moth-wise, in eastern Canada. If you ever wanted to know more about moths, butterflies and the butterfly garden, I suggest attending one of Diane's excursions or, perhaps, try the annual Butterfly Count.

The George McGee Service Award is presented to someone who has contributed significantly to the smooth running of the Club over several years. Connie Clark, a member for approximately 35 years, has helped in many capacities. She has volunteered at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden since its beginning, where she planted trees in the New Woods, worked in the Back Yard Garden, and is currently responsible for the Woodland Walk. She grows plants from seed at home for the annual plant sale and is a regular member of the Friday morning group. As a member of the Excursions and Lectures committee, she organized and led outings, and has been an active participant in organizing the annual soirée for many years. She has also written articles for *T&L*. Her energy is tireless and her smile infectious.







Macoun Field Club President, Morgan, joined the club at age eight. She spoke of many things the club has participated in the last year, but most notable were the trips to Pakenham (always a favorite), the talk about White Nose Syndrome in bats, meetings at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, the effects that the 2012 fire at the Lyme kiln hiking trail had on their study area, and how in three years all the ash trees in the study will succumb to the EAB. A heart-felt thanks went out to the leaders who make this club so enjoyable.

Have you ever wondered who ensures that the birdfeeder at the Jack Pine Trail is kept full during those long winter months? Fenja knew and chose to recognize Ray and Gerry Mullan by presenting them with the President's Prize. This prize is not given often, in fact I have seen it presented only twice in the last 10 years. I think it is very fitting and I congratulate Fenja, Gerry and Ray for their thoughtful acts.

By the end of the evening the votes for the favorite photograph and art piece were counted. It is always a hard decision, but Brian's Great Crested Grebe was the chosen portrait, and Diane's image of a Sanderling received the most votes in the photography section.

The evening was great, as usual, and I would like to thank Diane Lepage for providing all the images for this article. The full citations will be published in an upcoming issue of *CFN*.

This annual spring event is a time to celebrate past and present. It is always in April so consider marking it on your calendar. Information about the event will be available in *T&L* and on the club website (*ofnc.ca*) closer to the date. Perhaps I will see you there!











Now is also the time to consider people who you think are a good candidate for an award. Is there someone you think the club should recognize or a project deserving recognition? The Awards Committee is always looking for ideas. Not sure if a person has already received an award? Check the OFNC website under awards (<http://www.ofnc.ca/awards/winners.php>) and see who were recent recipients. Can't find the list? Send us your thoughts regardless. All that is required is the name of the person you are nominating, a brief description of why you think this individual fits the award category you picked and your contact information if further details are needed. All ideas are welcome.

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## Information about Snake Hibernacula in the Ottawa-Gatineau Area

*William Halliday*

Hello Ottawa Field Naturalists.

My name is William Halliday, and I am a PhD student at the University of Ottawa. As part of my PhD research, I am examining the habitat selection behaviour of eastern garter snakes (*Thamnophis sirtalis*). I'm currently looking for hibernating sites (hibernacula) of garter snakes in Ottawa and Gatineau.

Since I am new to the area, I have not yet had time to discover these sites. I'm seeking the help of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists to find any snake hibernacula in the area. If you know of any, please email me at [whall075@uottawa.ca](mailto:whall075@uottawa.ca), or call me at 613-793-1579.

Thanks for your help.



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# Review of Dazed but not Confused Tales of a wilderness Wanderer

*K. McLachlan Hamilton*

*Dazed but not Confused* is the latest in a series of books by Kevin Callan, aka the happy camper. I believe anyone who is a serious paddler in Ontario has probably heard of him. He is the author of several books including "A Paddler's Guide to . . ." series, has written articles for *Explorer* and *Canoeroots*, and has often appeared on radio and film. His mantra, which appears on his website, is "making the outdoors fun, one misadventure at a time."

This book is mostly a compilation of previous writings. Its 218 pages is divided into three parts: Life as a Wilderness Pornographer, Playing in the Woods and Wilderness Philosophy. Each part has between 11 and 17 chapters and includes many photographs throughout. Each chapter, usually 3-9 pages long, is a different story, so the book can be read randomly.

Part one is a series of media stories, mostly describing experiences gone wrong, like forgetting the pack containing the cook pots when hosting a film crew on a wilderness trip or being chased by a moose for a photo-op. I think the most interesting chapter was the one about trips with mismatched personalities where the dynamics were less than desirable.

Playing in the Woods is dedicated to memorable canoe/camping trips. Here he describes canoeing down the Ottawa and Kopka Rivers, a couple of trips within Quetico, two winter camping experiences, and a memorable trip to Scotland. I really enjoyed his chapters containing historical references, most of which are found in this section. The most poignant chapter was "Kopka River to Lake Nipigon" where he talks about being in the same location where an Outward Bound instructor had died. This chapter included excerpts from articles her husband (who was on the trip with her) wrote, and from one of the people who retrieved the canoe and portage packs three weeks later.

Another cautionary tale, entitled "Evil Camp Girls on the Sturgeon," describes one trip where he met up with 23 girls. In great detail you read about a trip becoming progressively worse, from trashed camp sites, to at least one broken canoe, a broken leg on a portage mishap, and what happens when you interfere with a rescue



operation.

The final section is a collection of stories about people he has met along the way and places he was enchanted by. The majority of the chapters are more of a human nature study than of natural history. He included chapters on how people survive portages (one lifesaver at a time), his addiction to gadgets (most notably the Kelly Kettle), dealing with the newer generation, and how an ATV can really be your friend. I would be remiss if I did not mention how the "Pass the Paddle" campaign began (blame it on a bear) and his story of where Paddle #2 took them.

The chapter I enjoyed the most was Hermits of the North. This chapter began with a story about a property in Prince Edward Island they bought with the intention of returning it to its original state only to discover a squatter. The story then continues with the story of Jimmy McOuat of White Otter Castle in northwestern Ontario, then John Tanner of Lac la Croix, and ends with the story of Wendell Beckwith's life and how he ended up on Best Island in Whitewater Lake.

One chapter of note was about Woodland Caribou Park, a place Callan had never explored before. This park, and the adjacent Atikaki Provincial Wilderness Park in Manitoba, is a vast expanse of wilderness that is classified as "Prairie Boreal" due to its dry, warm climate. He described the landscape as "ever changing" where you can paddle through an old-growth Jack Pine forest, then blink to find yourself in a burned area with its charred stumps and young pines attempting to grow. According to Callan, if you crave remoteness, this is the probably the park for you.

His love for the outdoors and his enthusiasm for natural history is evident. With the subtitle of "Tales of a Wilderness Wanderer," I was expecting stories of encounters with nature, so I was a little disappointed that most of the stories were human-based rather than with wildlife. After reading the book, I'm left with the question, "Is Kevin Callan a victim of his own success." He is considered by many as an ambassador for the canoe and canoe country; however, his complaints about the behaviours of other canoeists, clogged portage routes, loud campers, and the difficulty of finding the solitude he had years prior makes me wonder.

*Dazed but not Confused Tales of a Wilderness Wanderer* is published by Dundurn Press and sells for \$24.99. ISBN 978-1459707474.



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# A Brief Time in Heaven Wilderness Adventures in Canoe Country

K. McLachlan Hamilton

It is hard not to compare books, especially when, on the surface, they deal with similar subject matter. Both *Dazed but not Confused* and *A Brief Time in Heaven* talk about canoeing, camping and wilderness travel. Both are published by Dundurn. But that is where the comparison ends. *Dazed* is a fast paced, somewhat erratic read, while *A Brief Time in Heaven* is slower, more contemplative, like a gentle paddle.

Darryl Blazino, is a practicing dentist who loves his profession, but needed to find some balance. It started with a wilderness fishing trip with an old friend, but once introduced to Quetico Park, he was hooked. *A Brief Time in Heaven* is his personal record of the times spent in Quetico over the past 12 years.

The book begins by describing his passion, and why he now spends almost 50 days a year outdoors. It follows with a series of chapters describe the park physically, biologically and culturally. Quetico is uniquely situated in that it is geographically in northern Ontario, however it is considered part of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence ecozone. It is home to Red and White Pines, Moose, Bald Eagles, bear, turtles and, various species of fish. Quetico means "land of benevolent spirit" in Ojibwa and is considered home to many as is evident by the numerous pictograph sprinkled within the park. I think Darryl's comment, "Rarely will the park immediately wow you, but it is as beautiful as anything on this planet." is apt.

The joy of fishing and great fishing sites are discussed throughout. I understand that this activity is a love for many; however, I continue to have issues with peoples' need to catch as many as possible or the biggest ever. Even if the author does more releasing than keeping, humans being the way we are, I often wonder if areas will become over-fished or if a habitat is destroyed when a great fishing hole is advertised.

Blazino offers a nice balance between the joys and the perils of wilderness camping. The cautionary tale I recall most is the one entitled "Tempting Fate." It talks about whether one should continue or wait it out. This situation is what happened to three



sets of canoeists in June 2008. Blazino's group arrived first at Batchewaung, where the wind transformed the lake into a force not to be reckoned with. Shortly thereafter they were joined by another group who confirmed that the lake was too dangerous to cross. They stayed for night. The second day did not look any better. A couple more canoes arrived, then a third with a pair of seasoned paddlers. Unfortunately the temptation to continue and the desire not to miss another day was too much for the last group. They decided to cross. While attempting the cross, the canoe flipped. Fortunately for them, they were wearing their life jackets and got to shore unscathed. Also it was warm enough and they had dry clothes so hypothermia was not an issue this time.

Other chapters include canoe adventures with young children, portaging gone wrong and, perhaps my favorite, the terrific twenty places within Quetico he would recommend to a friend. The book concludes with a chapter discussing the changes within the park over the years and what may happen in the future.

*A Brief Time in Heaven Wilderness Adventures in Canoe Country* would be a nice read on a cold winter day. With its collection of images, one on every third page or so, the reader has an idea of what to expect when dreaming about the summer to come. The book is 140 pages long and sells for \$29.99 (ISBN 978-1459708075).

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## Trail & Landscape Mailing Group

The T&L mailing coordinator is looking for volunteers to help with the preparing the issues for mailing. The task is simple; it involves placing the sticky address label onto an issue and bundling them up. It takes only a couple of hours when 3-4 people are involved and is really a lot of fun. If you have a couple of hours to spare, think about joining the mailing group.

The group meets usually around the second week of January, April, July, and October, in the Bronson/Sunnyside area. Anyone interested please contact Sarah at 613-322-8708 or [sjasja43@gmail.com](mailto:sjasja43@gmail.com).



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# 2013 Fall and Christmas Bird Counts

## **Ottawa-Gatineau Fall Bird Count**

The annual Fall Bird Count will be held **Saturday October 19 – Sunday October 20, 2013**, beginning at 3:00 p.m. on the Saturday, and ending at 3:00 p.m. on the Sunday. The post-count compilation (free pizza, coffee, soft drinks and dessert for all participants!) will be held after the count on Sunday, at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretive Centre from approx. 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. For more information, please contact [birdcounts@ofnc.ca](mailto:birdcounts@ofnc.ca).

## **Ottawa-Gatineau Christmas Bird Count**

This year's Ottawa-Gatineau CBC will be held on **Sunday December 15, 2013**. Details re: the post-count compilation and dinner will be provided to participants by the sector leaders, closer to the date of the event. For more information, please contact [birdcounts@ofnc.ca](mailto:birdcounts@ofnc.ca).

## **Dunrobin-Breckenridge Christmas Bird Count**

Another traditional local CBC, featuring more rural habitats than the Ottawa-Gatineau count, and not that far out of town! Please contact count coordinator Bruce Di Labio for details at 613-839-4395 or [bruce.dilabio@sympatico.ca](mailto:bruce.dilabio@sympatico.ca) for this year's date and other information.

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We encourage you to come out for these great traditional birding events in the Ottawa-Gatineau area! You don't need to be an "expert" birder to join in—even counting birds at your feeder from the comfort of your own home can be an important contribution. The more participants the better, to discover what's out there in our area during the fall and winter seasons!



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# Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee.

For further information, check our website

*www.ofnc.ca.*

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.

**ALL OUTINGS:** Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.

**REGISTERED BUS TRIPS:** Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (Payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to Box 35069, Westgate P.O., Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 1A2, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Committee so that we do not have to wait until the last moment to decide whether a trip should be cancelled due to low registration. In order for the Club to offer a bus trip, we need just over 33 people to register. If fewer than 30 register, we have the option of cancelling the trip or increasing the cost. Such decisions must be done a week in advance, so we encourage anyone who is interested in any bus trip to register as early as possible. We also wish to discourage postponing the actual payment of bus fees until the day of the event.

**EVENTS AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE:** The Club is grateful to the Museum for their cooperation, and thanks the Museum for the use of these excellent facilities. Attendees may have to pay \$5 parking per vehicle.

**BIRD STATUS LINE:** Phone 613-860-9000 to learn of recent sightings or birding potential in the Ottawa area. To report recent sightings use the 613-860-9000 number and stay on the line. This service is run on behalf of the Birds Committee and is available to members and non-members.

**EXCURSIONS ORIENTED TO ALL AGES:** Kids are welcome on all of our trips. We have highlighted particular hikes as "kid friendly" as these are most likely to be enjoyed by typical children. Of course, depending on your child's/children's interests and stamina feel free to bring them along on any events. For events tailored to kids, check out the Macoun Field Club (<http://www.ofnc.ca/macoun/index.php>).



**Tuesday**  
**8 October**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Social & Club**  
**business**

**7:30 p.m.**  
**Formal**  
**Program**

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING**  
**OBBC (BIRD COUNT) RESULTS**

**Speaker:** Adam Smith

**Location:** Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and  
McLeod Streets.

Have you ever wondered how many American Robins (or Eastern Phoebe's or Northern Cardinals) live in Ottawa, and been frustrated when they wouldn't hold still long enough to count them all? The observations from the Ottawa Breeding Bird Count can tell us the answers, and more importantly, help us imagine how many there might be under different future scenarios. Adam Smith will give a tour of some of the most interesting results that are coming out of the OBBC program.

**Saturday**  
**12 October**  
**09:00 a.m.**  
**to**  
**1:00 p.m.**

**WILD GOOSE CHASE IN WEST END**

**Leader:** Richard Waters

**Meet:** Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of  
parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road, near Pizza Pizza.

Let's try to repeat the 6-goose day we had back on October  
12, 2009! Dress and stock up for the weather.

**Saturday**  
**19 October**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**to**  
**2:30 p.m.**

**A DAY AT THE FLETCHER WILDLIFE GARDEN**  
**FOR NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS**

**Leader:** Barry Cottam

**Meet:** Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretive Centre (IC)  
If you went down to the woods today, what would YOU find? Come out to explore the FWG in all its fall glory with your camera. Whether you are into birds, insects, fungi or fall colours, or all of them, there is much to see. The group will meet for brief introductions and orientation, then head out in all directions to explore Fletcher's various habitats until noon. We return to the IC to spend an hour choosing and preparing our photos/videos then spend a final hour sharing our work with the group. This will be a great opportunity to practice your photographic skills while learning more about natural history! If you are not a photographer but want to see the show, just turn up around 1:00 p.m.

Besides camera and binoculars, bring a device if possible for editing your photos; please be prepared to share it with someone if necessary. The FWG has a projector and screen for viewing the final results. Please also bring snacks and bottled water and dress for the day. To register, please contact Barry Cottam at [b.cottam@rogers.com](mailto:b.cottam@rogers.com).



**Saturday**  
**19 October**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**to**  
**Sunday**  
**20 October**  
**3:00 p.m.**

### **OTTAWA-GATINEAU FALL BIRD COUNT**

The annual Fall Bird Count. The post-count compilation (free pizza, coffee, soft drinks and dessert for all participants!) will be held after the count on Sunday, at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretive Centre. For details and to register in advance, please contact [birdcounts@ofnc.ca](mailto:birdcounts@ofnc.ca).

**Sunday**  
**27 October**  
**8:00 a.m.**  
**to**  
**12 noon**

### **DUCKS AND GULLS ALONG THE RIVER**

**\*oriented to all ages\***

**Leader:** Roy John

**Meet:** Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road, near Pizza Pizza. There will be a stop (or stops) along the Ottawa River, depending on what has been sighted and where, to look for Fall migrants. This is a rain or shine walk, so dress for the weather. Bring binoculars, a scope if you have one, a drink and a snack.

**Sunday**  
**3 November**  
**8:00 a.m.**  
**to**  
**12:30 p.m.**

### **WEST END WATER BIRDS**

**Leader:** Bernie Ladouceur

**Meet:** near Pizza Pizza, northeast corner of the Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre parking lot off Richmond Road.

Our focus will be loons, grebes, geese, scoters, other diving ducks, and gulls. We'll look at the other birds too! The trip will go rain, snow, or shine. Dress more warmly than you would usually as we will be standing for periods of time in exposed areas; bring binoculars and a telescope, if you have one; bring a drink and a snack, if you think you will need it.

**Note: Daylight**  
**Savings Time**  
**Ends**

**Sunday**  
**3 November**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**to**  
**4:30 p.m.**

### **CRANE FLY WORKSHOP**

**Presenter:** Fenja Brodo

**Meet:** Fletcher Wildlife Garden, Interpretation Centre  
There are over 150 species of crane flies in the Ottawa District, yet most look very much alike and many are tiny "little brown jobs" of the insect world. How does one distinguish these species? What sets the different taxonomic groups apart?

Which characters are important and how are they to be studied, given the minute size of some of these wondrous little flies?

This workshop will explore basic taxonomic procedures that are relevant to any group of organisms but using the Tipulids as a test case. Microscopes, specimens from Fenja's collection, as well as some relevant literature, will be provided. If you have one, bring your own microscope. Please register with Fenja (613-723-2054 or [fbrodo@sympatico.ca](mailto:fbrodo@sympatico.ca)) space is limited.

**Note: Daylight**  
**Savings Time**  
**Ends**



**Tuesday**  
**12 November**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Social &**  
**Club business**

**7:30 p.m.**  
**Formal**  
**Program**

## **OFNC MONTHLY MEETING**

### **BIRDING LAC DESCHÊNES OVER THE DECADES**

**Speaker:** Bruce Di Labio

**Location:** Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

Bruce Di Labio started birding as a kid tugging on his Dad's pants to drive him to Ottawa birding sites like Shirley's Bay. He continued on his bike with birding buddies through their teens. He later started making a living from birding by leading tours in Ottawa and beyond. He will give us the birding history and geography of Lac Deschênes, our Important Bird Area (IBA), and answer questions such as: How has Lac Deschênes changed over the decades? Why was the Shirley's Bay dyke constructed, and how did it change birding there? What are the best sites and why do they draw certain species year after year? What changes in species and numbers seen occurred over the past decades? What is the annual cycle of species seen? What are the "best" species seen? What are the abundant species that help make the site an IBA? Which species breed there and which just migrate though?

**Saturday**  
**16 November**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
**to**  
**12 noon**

## **WINTER FINCHES**

**Leader:** Jon Ruddy

**Meet:** Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza. Carpool to wherever the finches are in the west part of Ottawa.

Let's head out for some early-winter "finching." We will play this by ear (and by reports) as to where we will head in search of finches. Targets are: Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, Pine Siskin, Common Redpoll, Hoary Redpoll, Pine Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak. Come prepared for the weather.



**Sunday**  
**8 December**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**to**  
**4:00 p.m.**

**WOODY PLANT IDENTIFICATION TECHNIQUES IN WINTER**

**\*oriented to all ages\***

**Leader:** Owen J. Clarkin

**Meet:** Hampton Park Parking Lot (across Island Park Drive from Helena Street).

A hike through the mature woods of Hampton Park to illustrate methods of woody plant (trees, shrubs, vines) identification during the long cold season in Ottawa. The main goal will be lasting citizen education; therefore, participants will be provided with a key to identify most of the woody plants found in the Ottawa district in both summer and winter. Dress for the weather and bring your favourite snacks and refreshments. Hand lens, binoculars, field guides and notebooks could be of use, but are not required. This is a rain/snow or shine walk.

**Tuesday**  
**10 December**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Social &**  
**Club business**

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING**

**CAPITAL TO CAPITAL CANOE EXPEDITION: A JOURNEY FOR CLEAN WATER**

**Speaker:** Max Finklestein

**Location:** Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

**7:30 p.m.**  
**Formal**  
**Program**

In autumn 2012, a group of Ottawa canoeists made a 6-week, 1,800 km voyage from Ottawa to Washington, D.C. to press for Canada and the US to restore the health of their waterways. While the paddlers needed passports, water carries no passport and has no national identity. The symbol of the expedition was the declining American Eel, a fish that migrates long distances across international boundaries between rivers and the ocean.

**Sunday**  
**15 December**

**OTTAWA-GATINEAU CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

This is one of the area's annual bird counts. Whether you are a casual birder or an expert, all are welcome to participate. See page 160 of this issue for more information or contact [birdcounts@ofnc.ca](mailto:birdcounts@ofnc.ca).



**Tuesday**  
**14 January**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Social & Club**  
**business**

**7:30 p.m.**  
**Formal**  
**Program**

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING**  
**135<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

**\*Location:\*** Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretive Centre  
The Council for 2014 will be elected at this meeting. There will be a brief review of the activities in 2013 and a statement of the Club's finances will be given. This is an opportunity to meet most of the Club's executives and the chairs of the various committees, and to find out what makes your Club tick. Refreshments will be served.

**Saturday**  
**25 January**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
**to**  
**12 noon**

**MICROSCOPES: USES AND OPERATION IN**  
**FINDING THE HIDDEN WORLD**

**Leader:** Paul Hamilton

**Meet:** Canadian Museum of Nature, 1740 Pink Road,  
Gatineau

The use of microscopes or magnified imaging systems has been relevant since the late 1700s and still is our primary tool for examining the biological and geological worlds. How do microscopes work? What makes a good microscope of magnifying system? What are some of the limitations with using microscopes? How do we evaluate and use a microscope? This workshop will examine these questions and how to effectively access the optical quality of different microscopes. Please register with Paul (613-838-4943 or [phamilton@mus-nature.ca](mailto:phamilton@mus-nature.ca)) and also mention if you need a ride to the museum (or can offer one to others). The workshop is limited to 10 participants.

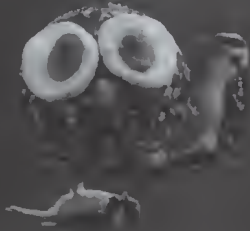
**Thursday**  
**8 May**  
**to**  
**Sunday**  
**11 May**

**POINT PELEE BIRDING TRIP 2014**

Our Club is planning another fantastic birding trip to Point Pelee and Rondeau Provincial Parks with several birding stops in other interesting places on the way down and on the way back. We have booked rooms at the Comfort Inn, Leamington and we shall charter an air conditioned bus with toilet facilities to take us there and back. We are not sure about who will lead this trip nor what the cost will be but rest assured that the leaders will be excellent and the price will be very reasonable. Expect more details in the next issue of *T&L*. Meantime, to secure your place on this trip call Fenja at 613-723-2054 or email [fbrodo@sympatico.ca](mailto:fbrodo@sympatico.ca).



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*DEADLINE: Material intended for the January - March issue must be in the editor's hands by 1 November, 2013. Mail your manuscripts to:*

**Karen McLachlan Hamilton**

**2980 Moodie Drive, Nepean, ON, K2J 4S7**

**H: (613) 838-4943; email: [hamilton@storm.ca](mailto:hamilton@storm.ca)**

### ANY ARTICLES FOR TRAIL & LANDSCAPE?

Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations?

Write up your thoughts and send them to *Trail & Landscape*.

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[webmaster@ofnc.ca](mailto:webmaster@ofnc.ca)



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